

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of sending an electronic communication from a first terminal to a second terminal via one or more hosts, comprising:
  - sending a query for an address for a first host to a first domain name server, the first domain name server having a domain name;
  - sending a query for the address for the first host to a second domain name server when the first domain name server does not resolve the address, the second domain name server having a domain name including an extension, wherein the extension includes the domain name of the first domain name server; and
  - resolving the address at the secondary domain server.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the query includes sending a query for an IP address for the first host.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the host is an instant messaging host.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the host is a presence and availability management host.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the query for an address for the first host includes sending a query from a second host.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising sending the address of the first host from the second domain name server to the second host.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
sending a query for an address for second host to the first domain name server;  
sending a query for the address for the second host to the second domain name server  
when the first domain name server does not resolve the address; and  
resolving the address at the secondary domain server.